

**San Francisco Estuary Project
Implementation Committee Meeting**

November 4, 2005

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Newark, California

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Introductions/Approval of May 6, 2005 Meeting Summary

Larry Kolb, Chair of the Implementation Committee, began the meeting shortly after 10 o'clock with a round table of introductions. The Meeting Summary for May 6 was approved.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3-A. Update on August 5, 2005 CCMP Workshop

As described in the October 21 memo included in today's meeting packet as Agenda Item No. 3A, participants in the CCMP Workshop recommended that the Estuary Project undertake an update of the CCMP. The updated CCMP would not require Executive Council approval, but only approval of the Implementation Committee (I/C). The update would need to be completed by May 2007 in time for presenting at the next CCMP Workshop in August 2007.

ACTION: It was agreed to establish a Work Group to draft guidelines for the CCMP program area work groups. The Guidelines Work Group would also consider refining or combining some of the existing program areas. It was generally agreed that CCMP program areas should correspond to the initial Ecosystem Indicators proposed for adoption by the I/C under Agenda Item 4A below. There was some discussion about reprinting the CCMP or taking the existing document and adding the revisions (cut/paste). This will largely depend on available funds and the extent of changes. The Work Group volunteers included Barbara Salzman, Rick Morat, Larry Kolb, Louisa Valiela, Cathy Bleier, and Mike Connor. The Work Group will meet in the near future and make recommendations to the I/C at the February meeting on the process for completing the CCMP update. Friends of the Estuary has been looking at areas of concern in recent meetings such as Habitat and Biological Resources and will participate in the process.

3-B. Long Term Finance Strategy

EPA requires that all National Estuary Programs produce a long-term CCMP financial strategy. EPA is providing \$5,000 for a financial consultant to assist with producing organizing a workshop and writing a strategy. A competitive process for hiring the financial consultant must be completed. There was much discussion regarding pursuing various partnerships or grants (Sonorian.org or cfda.org –catalog of federal domestic

agencies). It was suggested we approach existing agencies to redirect funds to cover certain projects; work with the Bay Area Open Space Council about a vehicle surcharge for environmental programs; consider political coalitions and bond acts for environmental enhancement projects.

ACTION: I/C members were requested to email Marcia Brockbank or Mike Connor with ideas for the workshop/funding strategies or possible consultants. Mike Connor requested the CCMP Work Group consider funding issues – what dollar requirements should be in the updates and he will research an appropriate financial consultant to facilitate the workshop and develop a scope for hiring the consultant.

3-C. Federal-Federal Partnerships

Tom Kendall of the US Army Corps of Engineers gave a presentation on the benefits of federal agencies partnering with each other and the need for legislation to allow the COE to partner with other federal agencies. He described the precedent for partnering for restoration by the COE and USFWS in the Northwest. The COE would implement the project and the other federal agency would assume O&M responsibility.

ACTION: It was recommended that the Estuary Project make informal contact with bay area legislative representatives to explore the feasibility of pursuing this legislation. Beth Huning of the SF Bay Joint Venture stated the Legislative Committee of the JV could take the lead on this legislation. It was agreed Tom Kendall, Marcia Brockbank and Beth Huning will follow up on this issue.

4. CCMP Implementation-Indicators

EPA requires a formal set of indicators be adopted for each NEP to track environmental and implementation progress in their estuary. Rainer Hoenicke of the San Francisco Estuary Institute presented a progress report on the SFEP and partners' efforts to carry out this requirement. He explained how the metrics and attributes of ecosystem habitats and processes demonstrate condition, stressors and management responses and how these will be used in framing indicator development. Tina Swanson of the Bay Institute made a presentation on the Bay Scorecard and how it was developed using the Fish Index as an example.

ACTION: The I/C approved adoption of the proposed Vision Statement (Agenda Item 4A in the packet) and the initial set of indicators set forth in the 2005 Bay Institute Report Card.

5. SFEP Issues

5-A. CCMP Implementation Review: Marcia Brockbank reported the EPA site visit was completed in May 2005 and she was notified that SFEP successfully passed the review. EPA is expected to send a detailed letter on SFEP successes and challenges.

5-B & C. State of the Estuary Conference/Jean Auer Committee: Karen McDowell reported the conference had about 750 attendees and was considered very successful by the Organizing Committee who met recently for a final conference evaluation. She noted the Kaiser Center probably will not be available for the 2007 Conference so she is beginning to scout a new location. There were recommendations to evaluate the length of the conference, possibly 2-1/2 days and to consider concurrent sessions. Staff requested I/C approval of members to serve on the selection committee for the 2007 Jean Auer award.

ACTION: The I/C approved the proposed members that were included in the meeting packet to serve on the Jean Auer Award Committee. Will Travis volunteered.

5-D. October NEP Meeting – Marcia Brockbank reported on the meeting at Naragansett Bay. One of the main topics was the OMB evaluation of EPA Programs (PART), which the NEP barely passed (50 points is passing the NEP has 53 pts). The NEP rated high in program management but failed at demonstrating habitat restoration because the NEP set its restoration goals too low. The NEP substantially exceeded its restoration goals, therefore cause for failing that component. She noted there is major concern for future NEP funding and support of the NEP by EPA. She also reported that SFEP has been asked to host the 2006 Fall NEP meeting.

6. CALFED/IRWMP

Brendan Reed of CBDA reported the agency is still undergoing review by KPMG, consultant (on stakeholders involvement), Dept. of Finance, and the Little Hoover Commission (governance) and reports are due out soon. The agency most likely will continue in some form but the structure may alter. Additional major issues include a lawsuit saying the ROD inadequately covered the no more water diversion alternative on which the state has asked for a re-hearing, and long term financing. The ERP has a proposal solicitation out for \$9 million for integrating agricultural activities and restoration projects.

Marcia Brockbank reported on the efforts underway to develop a Bay Area Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan, she focused on the Watershed/Habitat component of the plan. The planning document is scheduled for completion by January 2007. Then the parties will proceed with pursuing funding for implementation.

7. Announcements: Next meeting Feb. 3, 2006 in Oakland. Possible topics include the economic case for environmental action (Bay Area Council) and a presentation by the Delta Geographic Subcommittee as a model for geographic focus.

SFEP I/C Meeting Attendees
Friday, Nov, 4, 2005

Cathy Bleier, California Resources Agency
Phil Bobel, City of Palo Alto
John Bradley, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Mike Connor, SFEI
Bob Davidson, BASMAA
Sarah Davies, SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Rainer Hoenicke, SFEI
Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Tom Kendall, USACOE
Larry Kolb, SF RWQCB
Rick Morat, USFWS
Brian Mulvey, NOAA
Brendan Reed, CALFED
Barbara Salzman, Marin Audubon
Ted Smith, Friends of the Estuary
Mendell Stewart, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Tina Swanson, The Bay Institute
Will Travis, BCDC
Luisa Valiela, EPA-Region 9

Staff

Marcia Brockbank, SFEP
Debbi Egter-Van Wissekerke, SFEP
Feleciana Feller, SFEP
Karen McDowell, SFEP
Paula Trigueros, SFEP